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Fantasy Manga

RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

THE LADY OF PHARIS

Story by [illegible]

Art by Akihiro Yamada

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Fantasy/Manga

"outstanding" -Shotgun Reviews

The Birth of Evil

There wos o time when Lodoss Islond wos pure ond the forces of light ond dorkness were in batonce.

It only took the greed of one mon to chonge the foce of Lodoss forever. Now it's up to the worriors of legend to restore the tenuous balance, before the rivers run red with innocent blood.

Art by Akihiro Yamada, the character designer of *RahXephon*.

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ISBN 1588464894-2

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR
The LADY of PHARIS 1

CPM MANGA

COLLECTOR'S SERIES

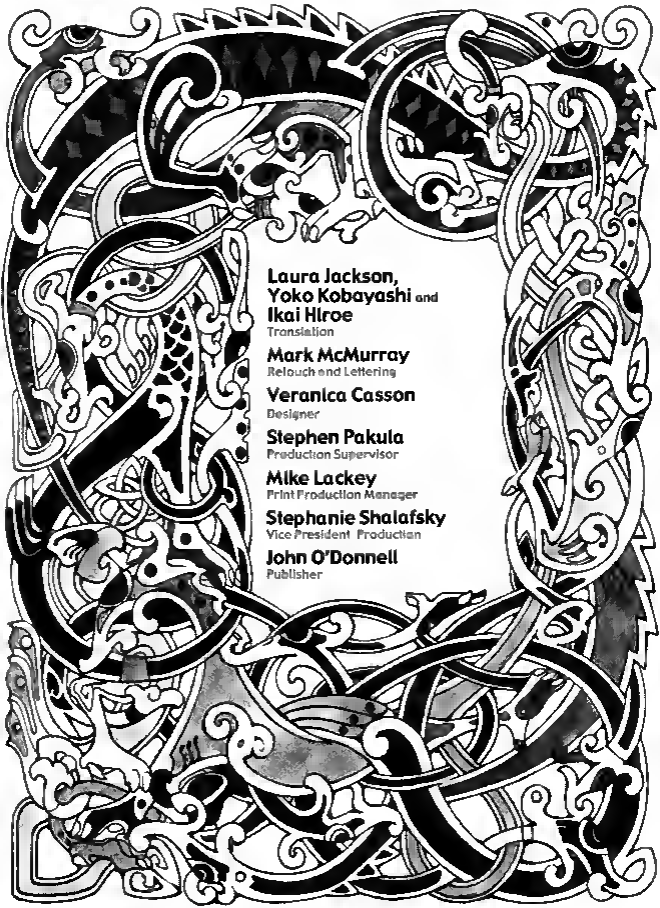
RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Lady of Pharis

BOOK ONE

80 All-New Pages!

Ryo Mizuno
Akihiro Yamada



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World Peace Through Shared Popular Culture™
centralparkmedia.com
cpmmanga.com

Record of Lodoss War: The Lady of Pharis Book One. Published by CPM Manga, a division of Central Park Media Corporation. Office of Publication: 250 West 57th Street, Suite 317, New York, NY 10107. Original Japanese version "RECORD OF LODOSS WAR—LADY OF PHARIS—vol.1 NEW TYPE 100% COMICS" (BIYOU MUSUKO/GROUP SNE/KADOKAWA SHOTEN 2001 © AKIHIRO YAMADA 2001. Originally published in Japan in 2001 by KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING Co., Ltd. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA SHOTEN PUBLISHING Co., Ltd., Tokyo through TOHAN CORPORATION, TOKYO. English version©2003 Central Park Media Corporation. CPM Manga and logo are registered trademarks of Central Park Media Corporation. All rights reserved. Price per copy $15.95, price in Canada may vary. ISBN 1-58464-894-2. Catalog: CMX844016. UPC: 7 19987 30644 7-00111. Printed in Canada.

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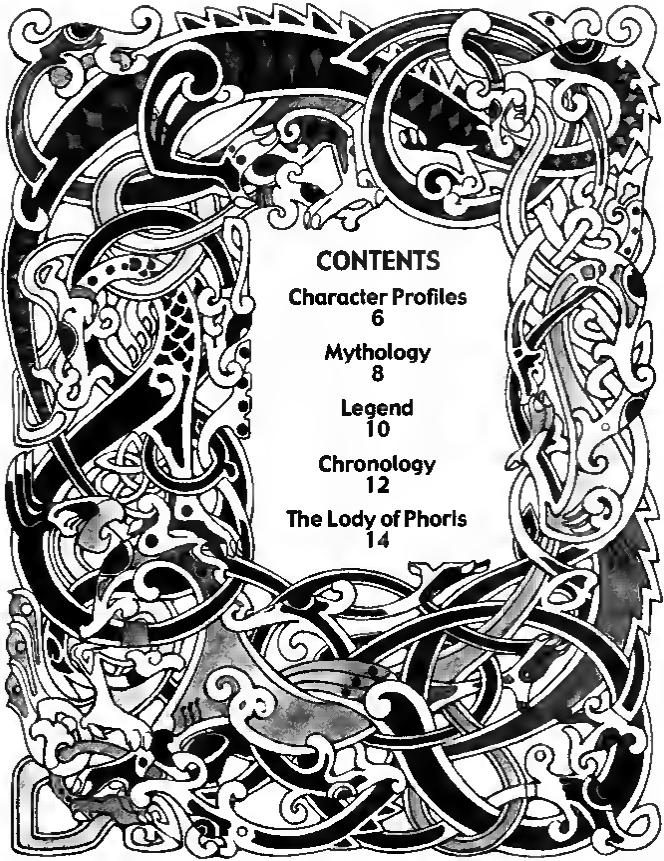
The Lady of Pharis

BOOK ONE



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EDITOR'S NOTE

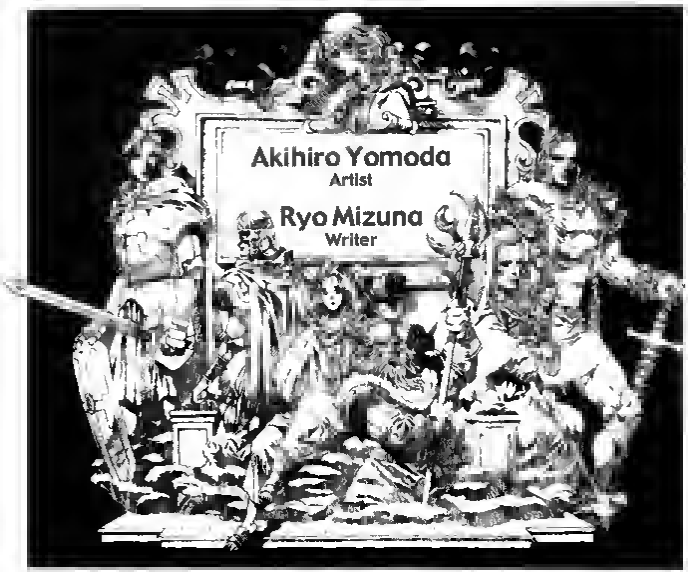
In Japan, *THE LADY OF PHARIS* was published western style, left to right. To preserve the original vision of the artist, we too are publishing *THE LADY OF PHARIS* left to right. The original artwork and sound effects are presented just like they were in Japan with minimal sound effect translation so that you can see and enjoy the comic like the original Manga creators intended.

The format we have decided to use to present the books was chosen by YOU the fans. We surveyed online and found that the overwhelming majority of fans prefer their manga sound effects translated in just the format we are using.

RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Lady of Pharis

BOOK ONE



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MANGA
New York, New York

CHARACTER PROFILES

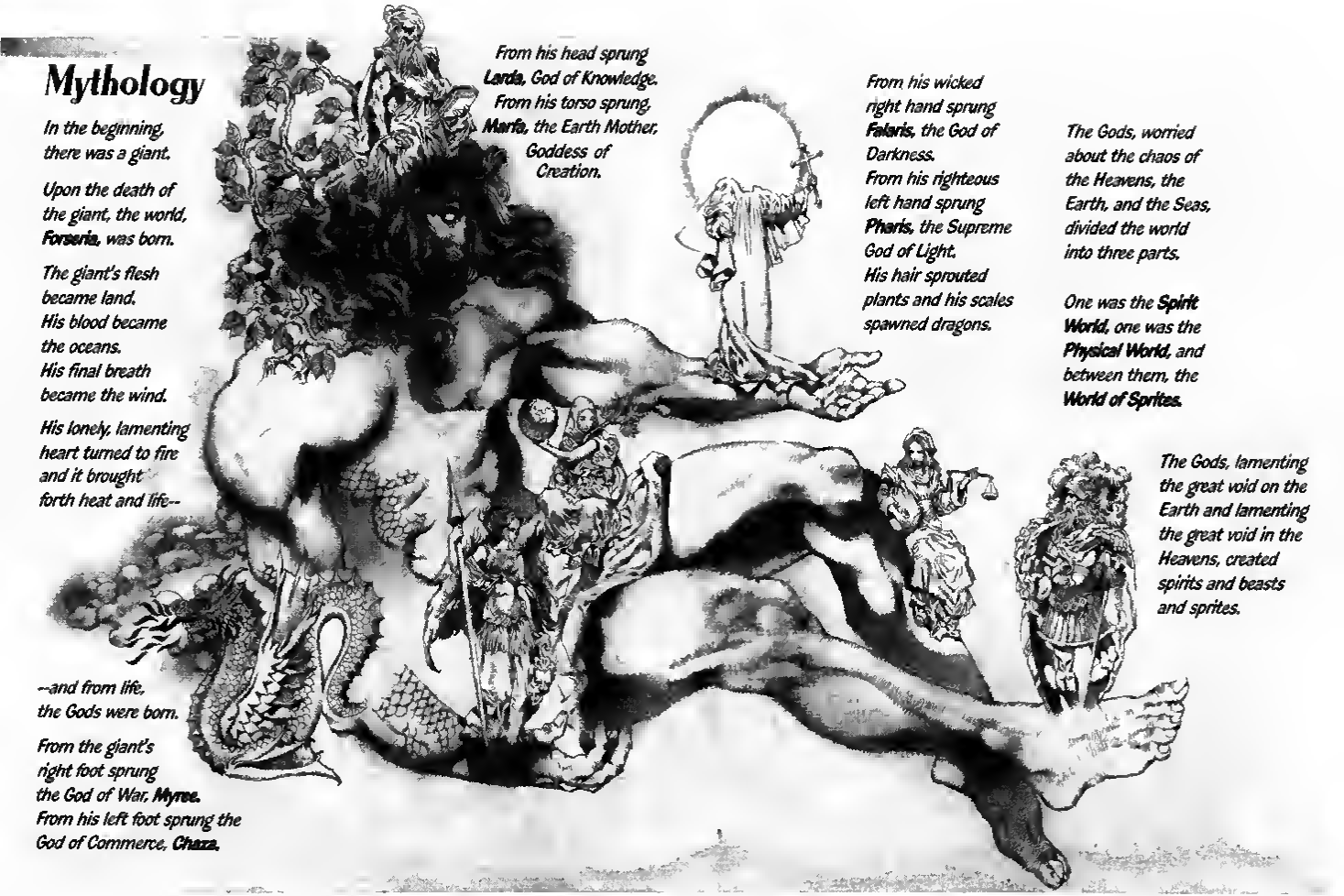
– Flaus –
Leader of the warrior priests and a servant of the supreme God of Light, Pharis

– Fahn –
The future king of Volis is only the leader of the Holy Knights of Volis in this tale

– Beld –
This red-haired warrior is a mercenery looking for the next bounty He will become the ruler of the dark isle, Marmo.

– Wart –
Destined to become one of the most powerful wizards in Lodoss, In this book he is Beld's mercenary companion.

Mythology



In the beginning, there was a giant.

Upon the death of the giant, the world, ***Forseria,*** *was born.*

The giant's flesh became land. His blood became the oceans. His final breath became the wind.

His lonely, lamenting heart turned to fire and it brought forth heat and life--

--and from life, the Gods were born.

From the giant's right foot sprung the God of War, ***Myree.*** *From his left foot sprung the God of Commerce,* ***Chazza.***

From his head sprung ***Lardo,*** *God of Knowledge. From his torso sprung,* ***Marfa,*** *the Earth Mother, Goddess of Creation.*

From his wicked right hand sprung ***Falaris,*** *the God of Darkness. From his righteous left hand sprung* ***Pharis,*** *the Supreme God of Light. His hair sprouted plants and his scales spawned dragons.*

The Gods, worried about the chaos of the Heavens, the Earth, and the Seas, divided the world into three parts.

One was the ***Spirit World,*** *one was the* ***Physical World,*** *and between them, the* ***World of Sprites.***

The Gods, lamenting the great void on the Earth and lamenting the great void in the Heavens, created spirits and beasts and sprites.

Legend

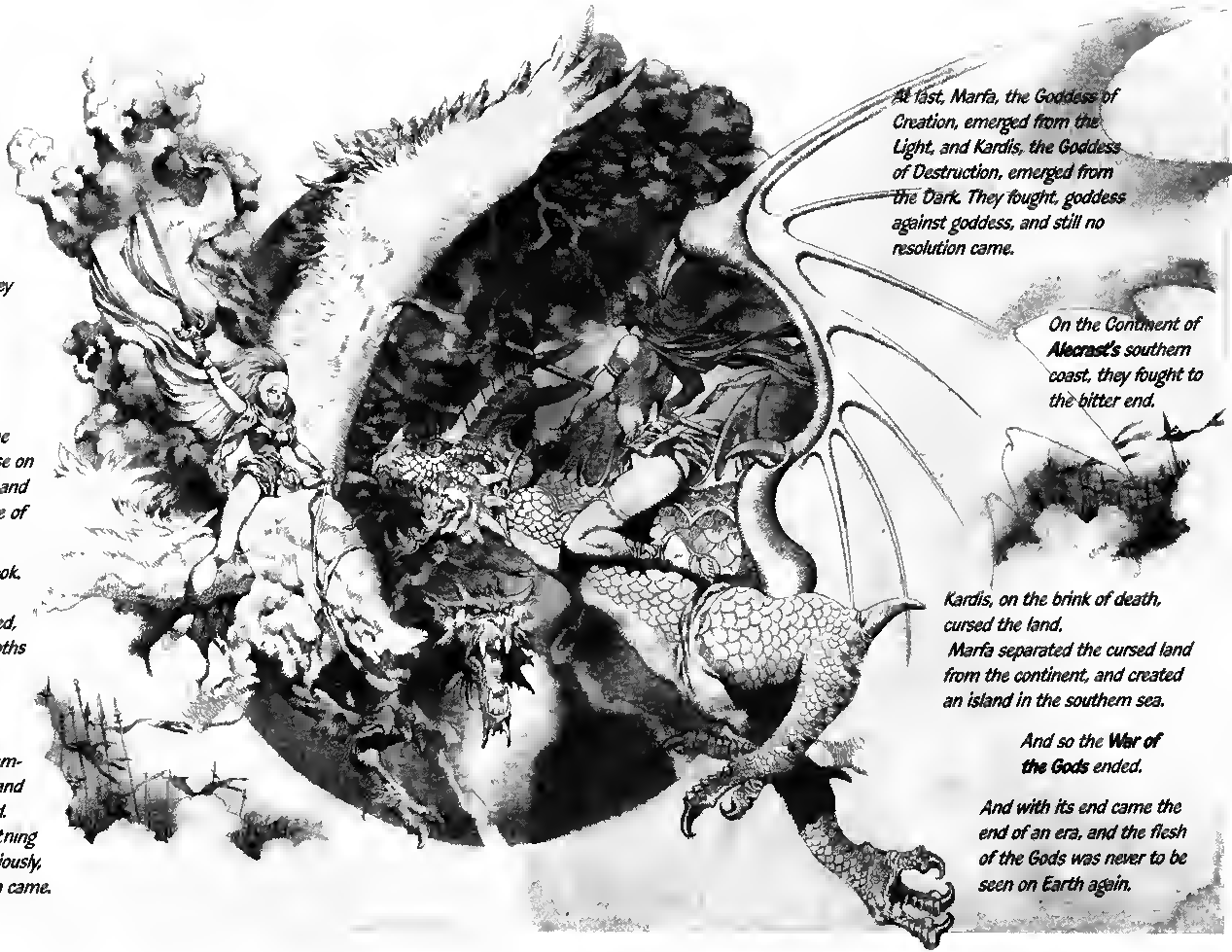
Though divine, the Gods found themselves with vastly different opinions on the universe, and they began to quarrel.

Their quarrels exploded like fields of fire.

The Gods became divided into those on the side of light and those on the side of darkness.

The heavens shook. The stars fell. The waters parted, exposing the depths of the oceans.

Fang for fang. Claw for claw. They clothed themselves in clouds and rode on the wind. They hurled lightning and fought ferociously, but no resolution came.



At last, Marfa, the Goddess of Creation, emerged from the Light, and Kardis, the Goddess of Destruction, emerged from the Dark. They fought, goddess against goddess, and still no resolution came.

On the Continent of ***Alecrast's*** *southern coast, they fought to the bitter end.*

Kardis, on the brink of death, cursed the land. Marfa separated the cursed land from the continent, and created an island in the southern sea.

And so the ***War of the Gods*** *ended.*

And with its end came the end of an era, and the flesh of the Gods was never to be seen on Earth again.

Chronology

After a long period of peace, human beings came into the world.

The blood of the Gods flowed through their veins and with the power of sorcery they built a kingdom.

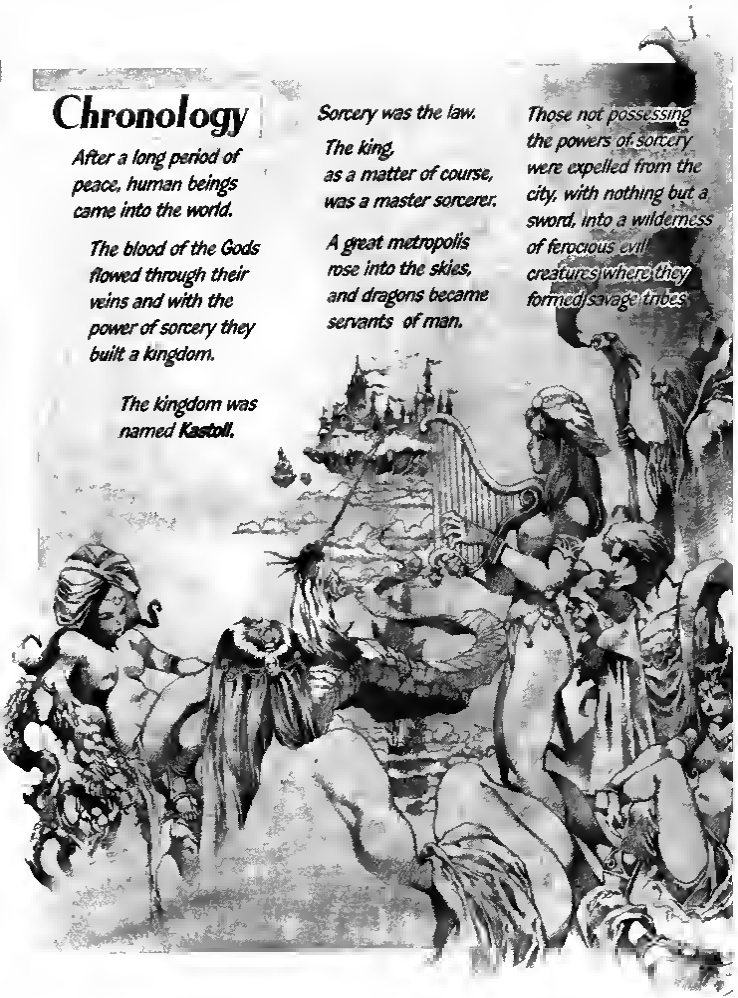
The kingdom was named ***Kastoll.***

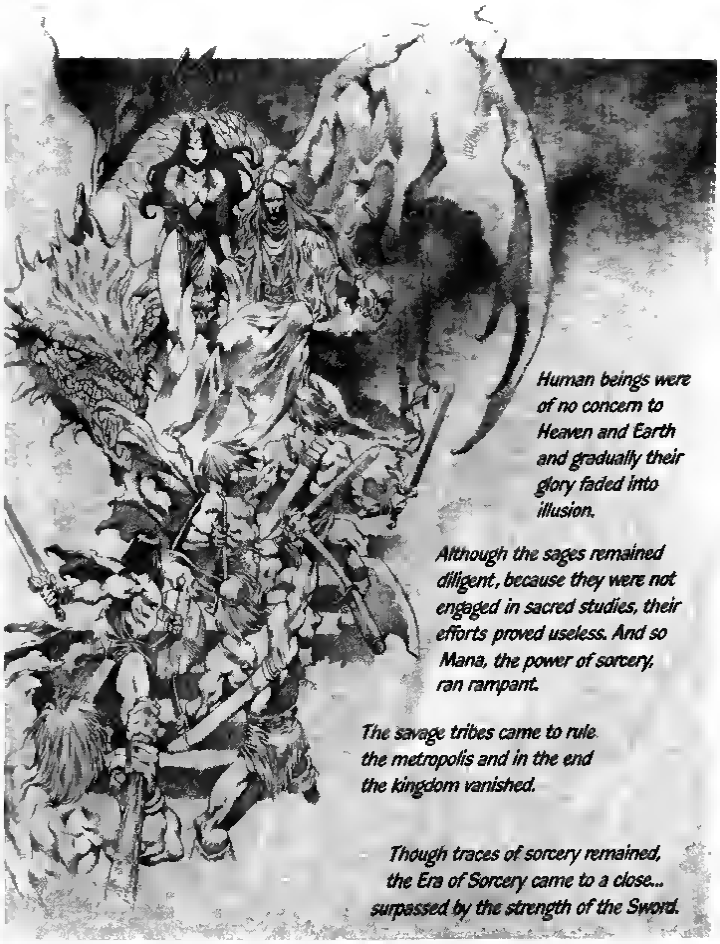
Sorcery was the law.

The king, as a matter of course, was a master sorcerer.

A great metropolis rose into the skies, and dragons became servants of man.

Those not possessing the powers of sorcery were expelled from the city, with nothing but a sword, into a wilderness of ferocious evil creatures where they formed savage tribes.





Human beings were of no concern to Heaven and Earth and gradually their glory faded into illusion.

Although the sages remained diligent, because they were not engaged in sacred studies, their efforts proved useless. And so Mana, the power of sorcery, ran rampant.

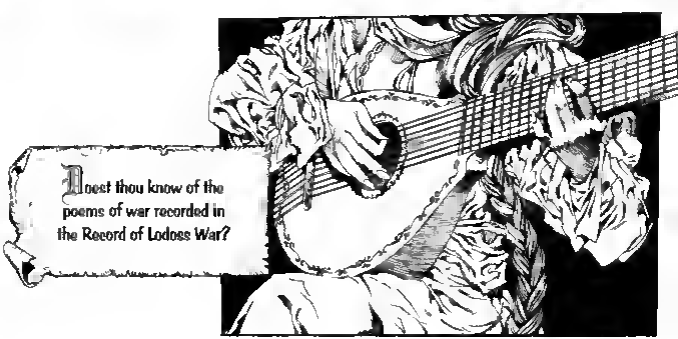
The savage tribes came to rule the metropolis and in the end the kingdom vanished.

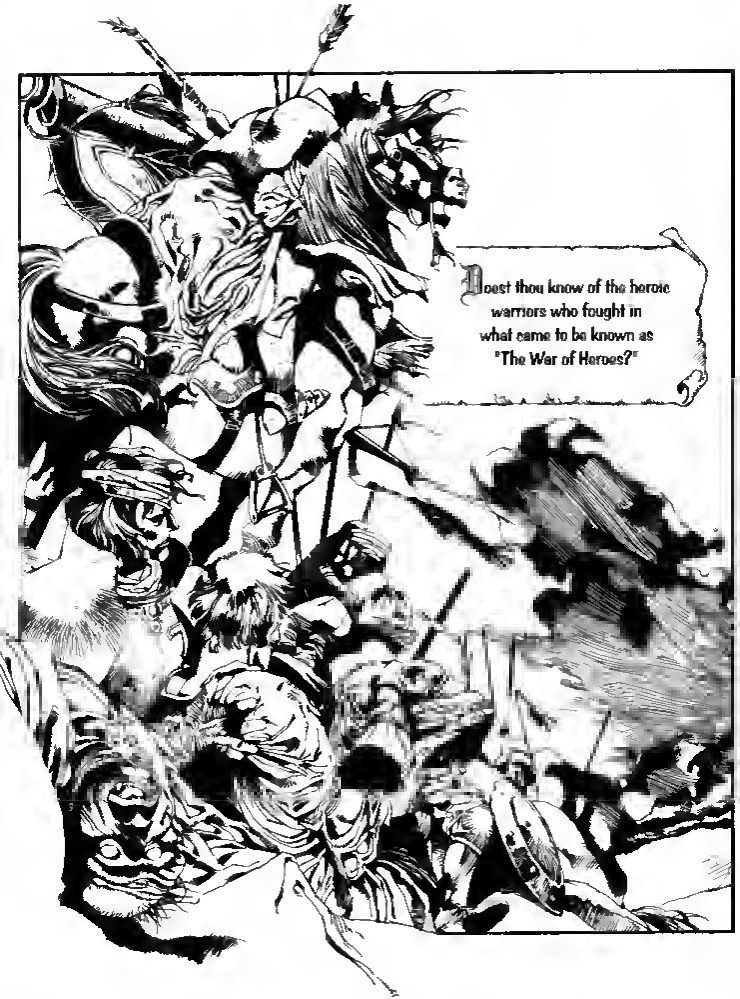
Though traces of sorcery remained, the Era of Sorcery came to a close... surpassed by the strength of the Sword.

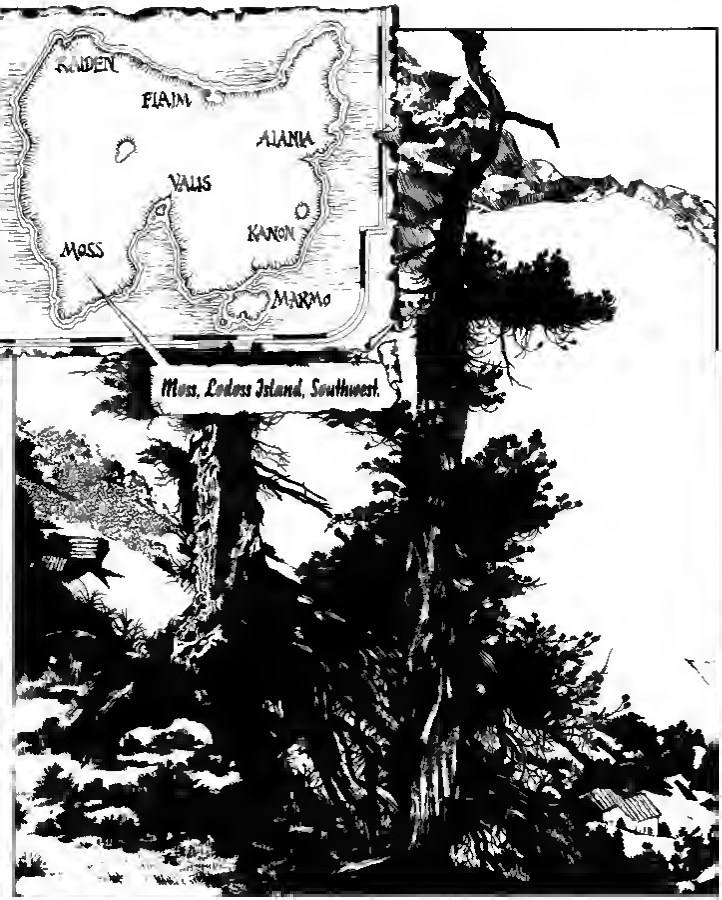
Listen now
to the many songs born
between legend and history.

Love them though they may be
old songs filled with sadness
and lamentation.

We are the children of
the War of the Gods,
and these are the songs
of our accursed homeland,
Lodoss.


Doest thou know of the poems of war recorded in the Record of Lodoss War?


Doest thou know of the heroic warriors who fought in what came to be known as "The War of Heroes?"


RUDEN
FLAIM
ALANIA
VALIS
KANON
MOSS
MARMO
Moss, Lodoss Island, Southwest.

Doest thou know of the war between the Six Heroes and the Gods of Evil?
I BESEECH YOU--

--GODS OF EVIL...
WHY DO YOU NOT APPEAR BEFORE ME?
I HAVE PREPARED A FEAST FOR YOU.
PLEASE APPEAR AND ACCEPT THIS SACRED BLOOD OFFERING
...
IT IS YOU--
--WHO HOLD THE POWER OF SORCERY!
KICK
YOU DECEIVED ME, DIDN'T YOU?!

WHAT?
TO HELL WITH YOU, GODS OF EVIL!
TO HELL WITH THE DEEPEST LABYRINTH!
THERE IS NO GOD OF EVIL!!

AHH.. SO IT'S YOU
ARE YOU HAPPY?
YOU MUST BE HAPPY.
YOU WHO WORSHIP FALARIS, GOD OF DARKNESS, AND KARDIS, GODDESS OF DESTRUCTION--
--WON'T YOU GRANT ME MY WISH?

IT IS LODOSS I DESIRE...
NO--
--THE WORLD!
I REFUSE TO END UP--
Ugh...
--KING OF THIS GOD-FORSAKEN PLACE.
THUMP
TH-THUMP
I REFUSE!

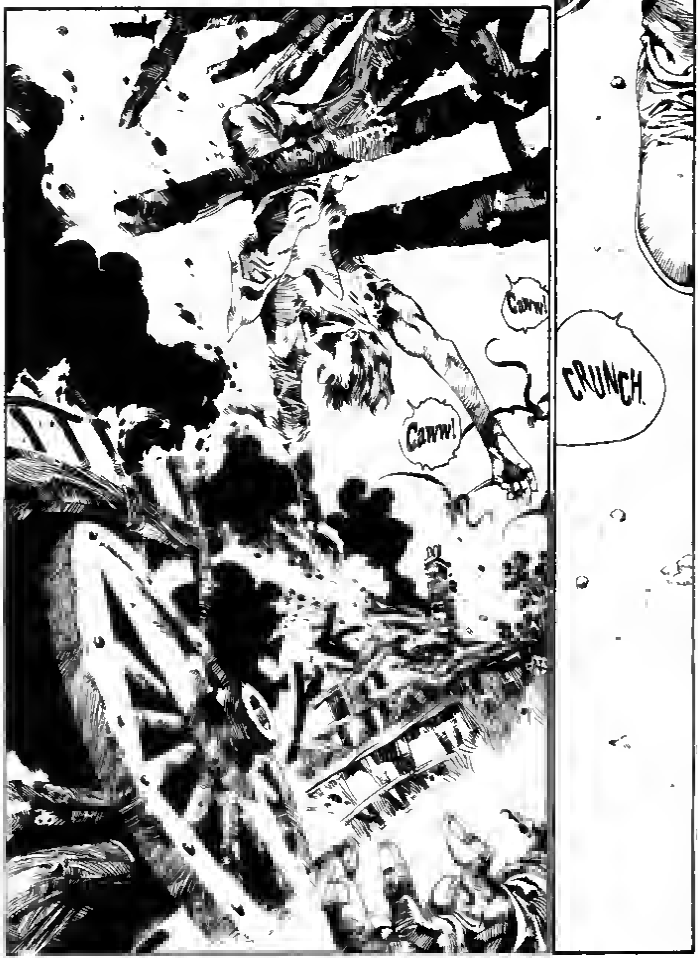
THUMP
AAAA

THUD
GRRRRR!

HERE
A BE...
A BEAST!!
UGH!
WHIP

POP!

NEIGH!
NEIGH!
HI-YAH!
HI-YAH!
HI-YAH!
GRRR!


CRUNCH.
Caww!
Caww!

GRRR!
CLAP
CLAP

WHACK
Snap
LEAP

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
TAK
KREEE!
PLOOSH!

AAEEE!
!
THUD
Ghrr.
Ghrr.

GRRRR!
SSSpurt
HURRY!
RUN!

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I AM THE SERVANT WHO HOLDS THE SWORD OF THE SUPREME GOD, PHARIS.
I AM *FLAUS*, LEADER OF THE WARRIOR PRIESTS!
IN THE NAME OF DIVINITY, I HAVE COME TO ANNIHILATE ALL EVIL KNOWLEDGE AND POWER!
PHOOSH!
H?!

PLOOSH

Scratch
WHOOSH
PLOOSH

THUD
huff.
huff.
huff.
huff.
GROW!

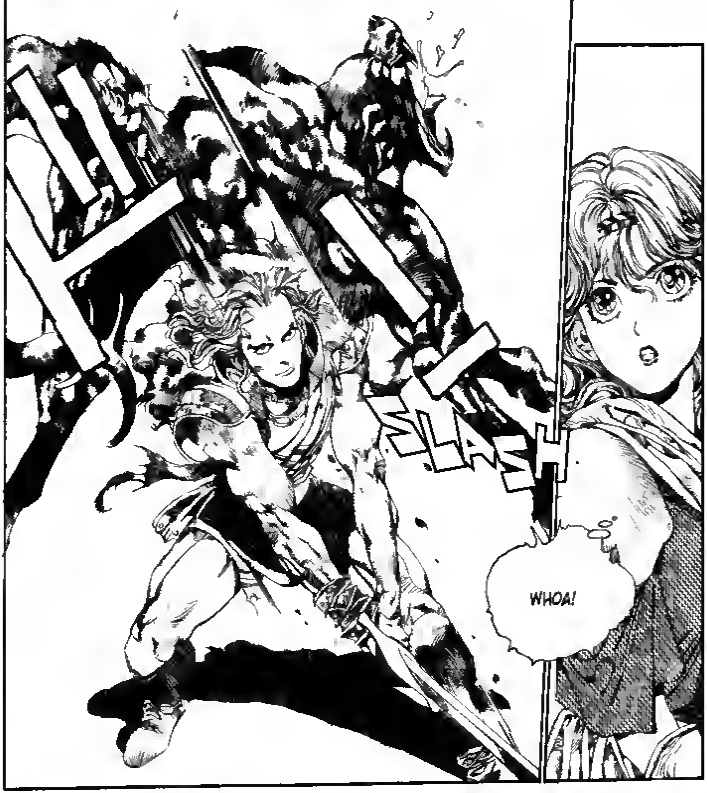
Snarl!
Snarl!
HELL HOUNDS!
!?

AN ARCH-DEMON?!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE THEY DOING HERE?
HUH?
chunk
PH... PHARIS!
DO YOU NEED HELP?

HAVE A DRINK WITH US TONIGHT--
--AND I'LL LEND YOU A HAND.
WHO ARE YOU?
SHE'S A PHARIS WARRIOR PRIESTESS, BELD.
SHE WON'T BE VERY GOOD COMPANY
WELL--
--IN THAT CASE...

OH MANA,
SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC--
--SOURCE OF ALL MIRACLES--
--GRANT ME THE USE OF ONE DROP--
--OF THE VAST OCEAN.
..LET'S HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH THOSE GUYS.
ALL WHO ARE DAMNED--

RREOW
--RETURN TO HELL FROM WHENCE YOU CAME!
MANA--
--BLESS THIS STAFF WITH YOUR STRENGTH


SLAM!
WHOA!

THUD
RAWR!

ALL WHO ARE NOT BLESSED...
PRIESTESS--
--WE'D BETTER NOT INTERFERE
IF WE DO, HE'LL BE RATHER UPSET WITH US LATER.
HE'S JUST HAVING SOME FUN.

CLANG
WOOSH
Hyaaah!
CLANG
Chak
CHOMP!

DAMN.
WHO CAST--
--A LIGHT-NING NET?!
ZAP

GRAR!
HYAAAAAAH!
SLASH

IMPRESSIVE.
WORT.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO HELP ME.
THUD!
I... UHHH...
NEVER MIND. I'M SORRY.
GLUNK
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
I'M FLALIS, LEADER OF THE WARRIOR PRIESTS.
YOU TWO MUST BE RENOWNED FIGHTERS.
BELD.

THE NAME'S BELD, SOLDIER FOR HIRE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE HEAD?
IF WE TAKE IT TO KANON, WE COULD GET A LOT OF MONEY FOR IT.
THERE'S A REWARD.
THAT'S MY PARTNER, WORT. HE'S A SORCERER.
THE PHARIS MONASTERY--
--WOULD ALSO OFFER MONEY FOR THAT HEAD OF EVIL
SORRY, PHARIS WON'T PAY WELL.
LET'S GO, WORT.
I WANT TO HIRE YOU TWO--
--TO DO A JOB FOR THE PHARIS MONASTERY.
BUT AS MY RETAINERS, I WANT YOU TO PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY TO ME
WAIT!
I PROMISE TO PAY MORE THAN THAT EVIL HEAD IS WORTH.
HOW ABOUT IT?

WHAT DO YA THINK, WORT?
IF YOU WANT TO--
--I WON'T OBJECT.
THEN IT'S SETTLED?
BELD--
--I WON'T FORGET THIS

ARE YOU GOING BACK TO THE PALACE IN VALIS?
YES
I HAVE TO REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE KINGDOMS.
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE EVIL WAS RELEASED FROM THE DEEPEST LABYRINTH.
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HOW MANY TOWNS AND VILLAGES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED--
--AND HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE *DIED* THIS PAST YEAR.
THE MOST IMPRESSIVE THING IS THAT--
--THE SCOUNDREL DIDN'T GIVE UP UNTIL HE FOUND THE THRONE OF DARKNESS IN THE DEEPEST LABYRINTH.

THAT WAS THE DUKE OF SKARD FROM MOSS, WASN'T IT? HE WAS THE ONE WHO SET THE GODS OF EVIL FREE.
I DIDN'T KNOW AN AMATEUR SORCERER COULD *DO* THAT SORTA THING
IT'S EASY.
ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS SACRIFICE A CLOSE RELATIVE BEFORE THE THRONE OF DARKNESS
DUKE BROOK OF SKARD AND HIS DAUGHTER WERE MISSING THAT VERY SAME NIGHT.
THE GODS OF EVIL ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE BROUGHT DESTRUCTION TO LODOSS.
JUST THINK OF THE DAMAGE DONE TO LODOSS BY PETTY WARS
THAT'S ENOUGH TALK ABOUT WHO DID WHAT!
MY JOURNEY IS ABOUT--

--JUSTICE--
--NOT NUMBERS.
Rond, Capital of Valis, Palace of Pharis.
FLALIS!
GENARTO!
YOU LOOK WELL! WELCOME BACK FROM YOUR JOURNEY.
HOW ARE THINGS IN THE OUTER KINGDOMS?

I SEE...
WHO ARE THOSE MEN?
THEY'RE STRONG ALLIES--
--OF MINE
IS THAT SO?
KEEP UP THE FINE WORK, MEN.
COUGH
COUGH
UHHH..
UHMM.
FLAVIS, I KNOW YOU ARE EXHAUSTED--
--BUT THE BISHOP IS WAITING TO SEE YOU.
ALL RIGHT!
OH, AND FLAVIS...
PLEASE CHANGE--
--THE BLOOD OF EVIL IS ON YOUR CLOTHES.
THE BISHOP MIGHT BE OFFENDED.

I'M PROUD--
--OF THIS BLOOD
IT IS ME, FLAUS
I'VE RETURNED.
AH, GOOD, GOOD.
COME IN.
PARDON OUR INTRUSION
Creeeak

HMM?
WHO ARE THOSE MEN?
MERCE-NARIES?
YES.
FINE
THERE'S A MAN HERE TO SEE YOU.
YOU HAVE QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE REPUTATION, FLAUS
I'M FAHN--
--LEADER OF THE HOLY KNIGHTS OF VALIS.

YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THE HOLY KNIGHTS OF VALIS?
FAHN?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO DISPATCH SOLDIERS TO FIGHT AGAINST EVIL?
WELL--
--NO
UNFORTUNATELY...

YOU CAN SPEAK IN FRONT OF THEM...
--THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR WORRY
LAST NIGHT...
Whoosh
Clank!

creeak
OH IT'S YOU
GOOD EVENING
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE TREASURY AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT, SIR FAHN?
CLANK
CRASH
WHAT?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

THWAP
TOK
WERE THE SACRED WEAPONS STOLEN?

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THE SACRED ARMOR--
--AND SWORD,
--SHIELD--
...THOSE THREE SACRED WEAPONS OF SORCERY BELONG TO THE KING WHO FOUNDED VALIS.
THEY ARE VALIS' GREATEST TREASURES.
THEY SAY--
--YOU STOLE THEM.
I'LL BET IT WAS A DOPPELGANGER.
THEY'RE A KIND OF LESSER DEMON--
--AND THEY'RE MASTERS OF DISGUISE.
WEAPONS PROTECTED BY THE SACRED POWER OF SORCERY--
--ARE THE HARDEST FOR THE GODS OF EVIL TO GET A HOLD OF.
WORT--
--CAN YOU USE SORCERY TO FIND OUT WHERE THE GODS OF EVIL ARE RIGHT NOW?
I DON'T KNOW WHICH CHANT YOU INTEND TO USE, BUT--
--I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T ENGAGE IN DEVIOUS SORCERY IN THE MONASTERY.

YES, YOUR HOLINESS
AND ONE MORE THING--
--FAWN AND I WILL GO RETRIEVE THE SACRED WEAPONS.
AND IF WE BRING THEM BACK SAFELY--
--I INTEND TO PROPOSE TO THE KING THAT WE FORM AN ARMY--
--TO FIGHT EVIL.
SO AS BISHOP--
--YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR A "HOLY WAR."
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP

KLOP
KLOP
IS THAT THE BISHOP?
AND IS THAT LITTLE GIRL THE LEADER OF THE WARRIOR PRIESTS?
PHARIS MUST HAVE A SHORTAGE OF FOLLOWERS
I APOLOGIZE--
--FOR DRAGGING YOU TWO INTO THIS
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
THE SUN'S ABOUT TO SET.
KLOP
LET'S STAY AT AN INN IN TOWN TONIGHT AND LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
AREN'T YOU GOING BACK--
--TO THE PALACE?
HIS MAJESTY HAS GIVEN ME DIRECT ORDERS.
ALSO, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE PALACE WHO ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ME.
AS A HOLY KNIGHT, I WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE PALACE

OH, THE TRIBULATIONS OF THE ROYAL COURT...
BUT I WOULDN'T KNOW I'M JUST A COMMONER.
?

!!
STAND BACK!
THWACK
ZAM
CLANK

WHAT--
--WAS THAT?
MY PERCEPTIVE POWERS--
--ARE FAILING
IS IT A GREATER DEMON?
MAYBE--
--IT'S A DEMON LORD.
IT'S POWERFUL, WHATEVER IT IS.
I SENSE TREMENDOUS EVIL ENERGY.
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO--
--IF WORT'S MAGIC DOESN'T WORK.
THAT'S TRUE...

PERHAPS THE CRYSTAL AT THE *SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY*...
SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY?
IT'S A TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR SORCERERS
I HEARD THE VALISIAN PALACE SORCERERS STUDIED THERE.
FOR THE PAST 200 YEARS, THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN REVIVING THE ANCIENT SORCERY OF KASTOLL.
IT HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO NEW FORMS OF SORCERY AND GREAT SORCERERS
I SEE. YOU'RE QUITE *EDUCATED*, SIR FAWN.
THE SCHOOL POSSESSES ARTICLES OF SORCERY THAT WERE EXCAVATED FROM ANCIENT RUINS.

WHERE--
--IS THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY?
IT'S NORTH, IN THE METROPOLIS OF *ALAN* IN *ALANIA*.
THE GODS OF EVIL ARE PROBABLY HEADED FOR MOSS, SO WE SHOULD TAKE THE LONG WAY AROUND
YES. WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE SORCERER'S ADVICE FOR NOW.
MOSS IS STILL FIGHTING A CIVIL WAR--
--AND IT'S NOW SERVING AS A MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT FOR THE GODS OF EVIL.
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER TO *AVOID* TROUBLE UNTIL WE REACH OUR GOAL.
WE'LL LEAVE FOR ALAN IN THE MORNING.

The Sovereign Highlands of Mose.
GRRROWR!
GRRROWR!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER--
--YOUR MAJESTY?
HMM...
AHH
IS IT THAT SOUND?

I BELIEVE IT'S THE ROAR OF A DRAGON.
A DRAGON'S ROAR?
GOLDEN DRAGONS HAVE INHABITED THOSE MOUNTAINS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES
GRRROWRR!
EVEN WHEN EVIL WAS FIRST LET LOOSE THE DRAGONS DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND...IT MUST BE GRAVE INDEED
IT'S TIME TO CHANGE GUARDS
OKAY.

I DON'T LIKE THAT SOUND.
IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING CREEPY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN
STOP TALKING LIKE THAT.
HEY!
WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH FRIGHTENED SOLDIERS IN THE RANKS
HALT!!
WHO ARE YOU!?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
THIS IS THE BORDER OF THE SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR OF MYCEN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF KNIGHT YOU ARE--
--BUT IF YOU'RE A MESSENGER FROM AN OUTER KINGDOM, SHOW ME YOUR DOCUMENTS!
AND YOU BETTER NOT BE A SPY, OR ELSE!
IS HE.. DRAWING HIS SWORD!?
LOOK!
LOOK AT HIS ARMOR!
VALIS?
FWOOP
FWOOP

Lodoss Island, Northeast
The City of Alan, Alania.
RAIDEN
ELAIM
ALANIA
VALIS
KANON
MOSS
MARMO
PEOPLE SEEM--
--SO RELAXED HERE
THAT'S BECAUSE THIS IS THE NORTH
EVIL LAUNCHED IT'S INVASION FROM THE SOUTH. IT HASN'T ARRIVED HERE YET.
IS THAT--
--THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY?
YES

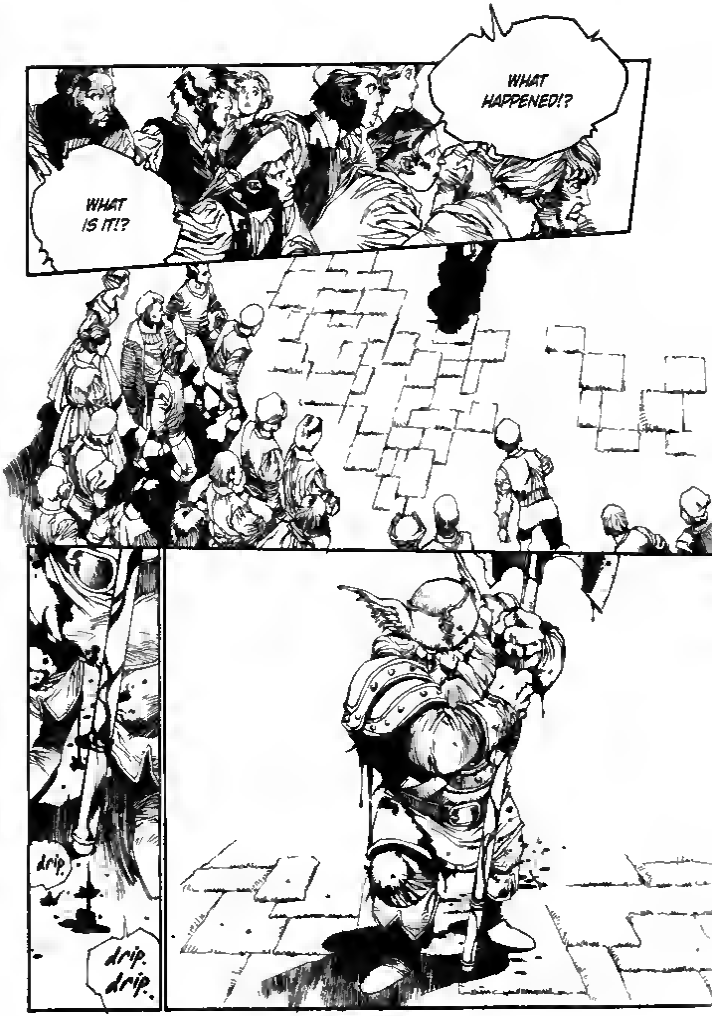
YOU GUYS WAIT HERE.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
I'M GOING WITH YOU.
I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, BUT IT'S POINTLESS.
IT IS A SCHOOL PRINCIPLE NOT TO USE SORCERY TO FIGHT.
WORT'S QUITE AN ODDBALL.
HE THINKS SWORDS AND SORCERY ARE THE SAME THING
WHATEVER. ANYWAY--
--I'M GOING TO GET THE CRYSTAL BALL.
BE CAREFUL.

WE HAVE TO GET THE SACRED WEAPONS BACK--
--FROM THE GODS OF EVIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YOUR MAJESTY!
HUFF.
HUFF.
TELL ME AGAIN, SOLDIER.
HUFF.
HUFF.
YES!
A VALISIAN HOLY KNIGHT--
--PENETRATED OUR BORDER BY FORCE!
--WITH SEVERAL EVIL DEMONS--

YOUR MAJESTY!
BAM
I NEED TO CONFIRM WHETHER VALIS INTENDS TO GO TO WAR WITH US OR NOT!
THE BORDER GUARDS WERE--
--WIPED OUT!
NO! IF THIS REPORT IS TRUE I SHALL CONSIDER THIS INVASION A DECLARATION OF WAR!
FEUDING AMONG DUKES MAY BE A THORN IN OUR SIDE, BUT--
DISPATCH A MESSENGER--
--TO VALIS AT ONCE!
--TAKING ON THE VALISIAN ARMY WON'T BE SO SIMPLE!

IT'S SO PEACEFUL HERE.
LOOKING AT THIS TOWN--
--IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT EVIL EVEN EXISTS
THIS IS THE OLDEST TOWN IN LODOSS.
I HEARD DWARVES BUILT THESE BUILDINGS. I BET NOTHING'S CHANGED IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS
I WONDER WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE LIKE THIS
UNFORTU-NATELY--
--IT'S GOING TO TAKE A *VERY* LONG TIME

SEE--
--EVEN THE WIND IS TAINTED WITH BLOOD.
AAIEEE!
!
Boom


WHAT HAPPENED!?
WHAT IS IT!?
drip.
drip. drip.

WHERE--
WHAT'S THAT!?
--AM I?
A DWARF?
YES, LADY NEECE--
--I GOT THE NEWS FROM AN ALANIAN MESSENGER
I WONDER--
--IF HE IS KING OF THE SOUTHERN DWARVES?

HMM SINCE THE HIGH PRIEST IS AWAY--
--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO TO ALAN.
PLEASE INFORM THE LOCAL DWARVES IMMEDIATELY.
YES, MA'AM.

ARE YOU THE ONE--
--WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE DWARF?
COME.
I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU TO ALAN.

Rattle
rattle
WORT?

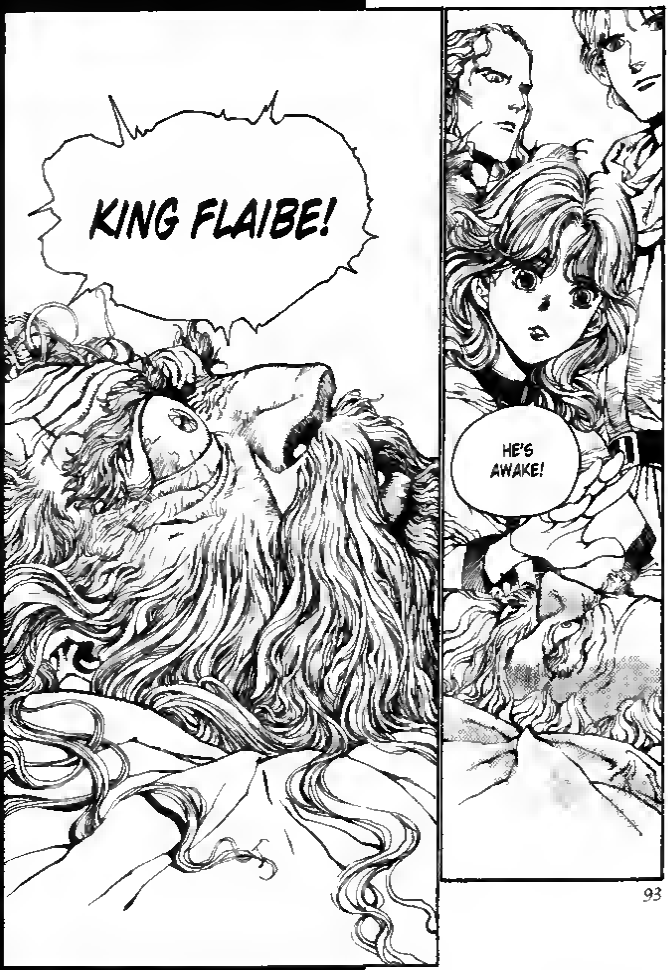
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
DEAN LARUKAS--
--THIS IS WORT, THE MAN WHO CAME TO SEE YOU.
DEAN LARUKAS WILL SEE YOU NOW.
COME IN.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON
TCH!
WORT!
WHO WAS THAT YOUNG MAN?

YOU MEAN VAGNADO?
IF HE WEREN'T SO INTERESTED IN DUBIOUS SORCERY--
--HE WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE TITLE OF SAGE BY NOW.
BUT I'M PERFECTLY WILLING TO RELINQUISH MY SEAT AS HEAD DEAN TO YOU IMMEDIATELY.
WELL... UH...
GOOD HEAVENS! ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT YOU'D RATHER BE A MERCENARY? WHAT A WASTE OF TALENT.
ACTUALLY--
--I'M WORKING FOR A BOSSY YOUNG GIRL.
SHE'S A PHARIS PRIESTESS, ISN'T SHE?
YOU SEEM TO KNOW ALL.
WITH THIS CRYSTAL BALL I CAN SEE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN LODOSS.

THE FACT IS..
I KNOW.
PLEASE . LET ME EXPLAIN--
--SINCE THE ANCIENT CITY OF KASTOLL WAS DESTROYED, THIS SCHOOL HAS NOT ENGAGED IN WAR--
--NOR DO WE LEND OBJECTS OF SORCERY FOR THAT PURPOSE.
HOWEVER--
--I AM PREPARED TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY, THIS ONE TIME, AND SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY DISHONORABLE ACTION.
WORT , THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY WILL NOT ALLOW BLACK MAGIC TO DESTROY THE WORLD.
DEAN LARJKAS...

CPM MANGA
No.4
Fantasy Manga
RECORD OF
LODOSS WAR
THE LADY OF PHARIS
DIRECT SALES
Story by Ryo Mizuno Art by Akihiro Yamada

YOUR MAJESTY!
IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT!?
THE ONES WHO TOOK REFUGE IN THE EASTERN CORRIDOR HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY ANOTHER BATTALION.
WHAT ABOUT THE ROYAL SUITES?
THEY JUST NARROWLY MADE IT.
GET THE WOUNDED TO THE BACK OF THE PALACE!!
HIDE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN!
THOSE WHO CAN STILL FIGHT, FOLLOW ME.
GOOD GOD!
WE'RE SURROUNDED!
YOUR MAJESTY!
YOUR MAJESTY!


KING FLAIBE!
HE'S AWAKE!

I'M FROM THE MARFA MONASTERY.
I UNDERSTAND THE WOUNDED DWARF WAS BROUGHT HERE.
KNOCK KNOCK
BELD?
CAN YOU GET THAT?
creak
HOW'D YOU KNOW HE WAS HERE?
A MESSENGER TOLD ME.
IS HE IN THERE?

NO.
WELL, WHERE IS HE?
HE'S GOT AMAZING STRENGTH
IT'S A MIRACLE HE'S STILL ALIVE
THE HEALING POWER--
--OF PHARIS REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED.
YOU'RE KING OF THE STONE KINGDOM, AREN'T YOU?
HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I...
...
I ABANDONED MY KINGDOM.
WON'T YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?

I, THE KING--
--ABANDONED MY KINGDOM
HAAAAAA!

SLICE
SPLAT
RAM
IS ANYONE ALIVE?!

ISN'T ANYONE ALIVE?
--NO ONE SURVIVED...
IT'S NO USE--
?
GRRARR
AH HAH!
FOUL BEAST--
RETURN TO DARKNESS!!
GROWRR!

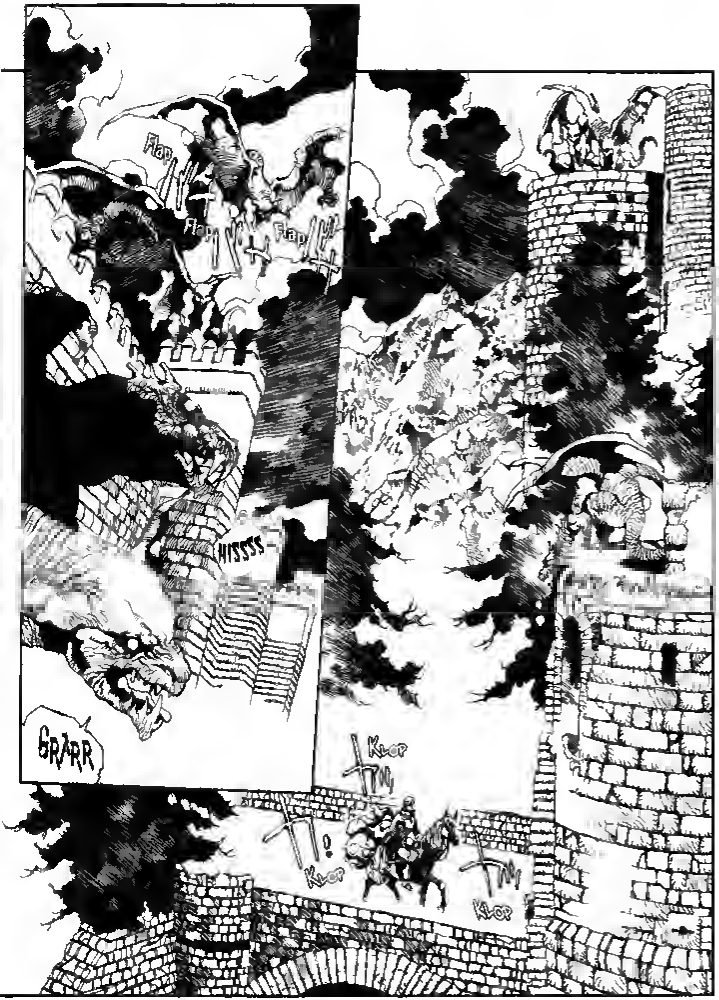
CLANK!
KING FLAIBE--
--IT IS TIME TO DEPART!
HUH?
--WAIT!
PLEASE--
NO!

WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THIS TOWN.
AS OLD AS THE STONE KINGDOM IS--
--WE WERE STILL UNABLE TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST EVIL'S SUDDEN ATTACK.
--TO FIND OUT IF THERE WERE ANY SURVIVORS.
I COULDN'T FEND THEM OFF LONG ENOUGH--
THANK YOU.
YOU'VE TOLD US PLENTY.
NOW WE KNOW THE GOAL OF THE GODS OF EVIL.
STOP SPEAKING IN RIDDLES
LISTEN UP, SOLDIER.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I, A PROUD DWARF, ADMITTED TO MY DISGRACE?
BECAUSE THIS WAR IS NO LONGER A SKIRMISH AMONGST DWARF TRIBES

THE GREAT TUNNEL PASSING THROUGH THE KINGDOM OF STONE--
--CONNECTS TO A LOT OF UNDERGROUND CAVES ON LODOSS.
AND THE MOUTHS OF THE CAVES OPEN ABOVE GROUND.
WHICH MEANS--
--EVIL COULD SURFACE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME?
PRECISELY.
THE UNSEEN PARTS OF LODOSS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONQUERED!

KRSSH!
DAMN!
KRSSH!!
LOOK AT THE SKY
LOOKS LIKE A STORM MOVIN' IN
I TOLD YA THIS'D HAPPEN
IF WE'D A TOOK THE ROAD FROM DRAGON BREATH TO OUR VILLAGE, WE WOULDA GOT CAUGHT BY SOLDIERS--
--AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY DAYS WE'D A BEEN STUCK THERE.
THAT'S SKARD'S CASTLE. THEM EVIL GODS ARE HIDIN' OUT IN THERE. I BETCHA THEY'RE MAKIN' THE CLOUDS COME.
AND YOU KEEP SAYIN' WE GOTTA TAKE A SHORT CUT!
FOR PHARIS' SAKE!
STOP WHININ'!
WE AIN'T GOT THE RIGHT PAPERS TO GET THROUGH
PASSIN' SOUTH OF DRAGON SCALE IS THE QUICKEST WAY OVER THE MOUNTAINS
STOP COMPLAININ' AND GET THEM HORSES MOVIN'--
--OR WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE FESTIVAL

Rumble
Rumble


Flap
Flap
Flap
HISSSS
GRARR
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP

KLOP
KLOP
KLOP

GRR
GRR
GRR
RIP!
SNIFF
SNIFF

Hrar?
TOK
TOK

CLANK
クワーッ!

tap
WHAT A GREAT KNIGHT.
YOU REALLY HELD UP WELL.
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
THERE WAS A NEGATIVE FORCE THAT FELT LIKE A STONE WALL, BUT I MANAGED TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE
WHERE ARE THEY?
IN THE DUKE OF SKARD'S CASTLE
THAT'S THE BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE GODS OF EVIL

I'M GOING WITH YOU
FLAIBE!
YOU NEED TO REST.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
ONE LOOK AT THOSE EVIL GODS SHOULD TAKE A HUNDRED YEARS OFF ME.
MY BATTLE-AXE...
THUMP
SHE'S RIGHT. YOU NEED A REST.
THE DWARF'LL ONLY HOLD US BACK.
BELD.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO CARRY THE WOUNDED.
LET'S GO!

I'M GOING TO TAKE KING FLAIBE BACK TO THE MARFA MONASTERY.
THE GODDESS OF CREATION WON'T OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT LODOSS IS BEING INVADED BY EVIL.
I'M SURE I'LL BE JOINING YOU AGAIN ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
MARFA HAS A TROOP OF WARRIOR PRIESTS.
Rumble
UNTIL THEN, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES.
--NEECE
YOU TOO--

Poof
Ha!
ha! Ha! Ha!
HAH!

Schlup
VWOOSH

CPM MANGA

No. 5

$2.95

Fantasy Manga

RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

THE LADY OF PHARIS

Story by Ryo Mizuno · Art by Akihiro Yamada

DIRECT SALES

THUMP!
flap
Grr.
GRUF.

flap
1

OH MANA--
--SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC, SOURCE OF ALL MIRACLES--
--SET FREE THE STRENGTH THAT LIES SLEEPING IN THIS BODY--
--SEND THE BLOOD OF THIS FIGHTER SURGING, AND AWAKEN HIS DORMANT POWER.
ARE YOU FINISHED?
YES

LET'S GO
CLANG-G-G!

Creeeak
LOOK OUT!
CRASH
Hisss

HE WAS HIDING--
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING!?
--HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE
--JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T--
WE'VE GOT COMPANY.
WE BETTER NOT KEEP THEM WAITING.
LET'S DO IT!

ROAR
ROAR
RAAR
LEAP!
SLASH
PHWOOM

Aaieee!!
FWACK
WOOSH
FORCE!

WORT!
MANA, SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC, TAKE HIS AXE--
GROWRFF!
--BEND IT AT ONCE AND DON'T BE LAX.
BEND
WEA
HYAAAH!

SLASH!!
THE SACRED WEAPONS ARE IN THE DUKE'S CHAMBER!
AN ARCH-DEMON IS GUARDING THEM!
THERE'S A COURTYARD OUTSIDE THIS GALLERY. HEAD FOR THE FAR END!
TRY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH LESSER-DEMONS. SAVE IT FOR THE LEADER!
Thud
SLASH!
THERE'S A REWARD FOR IT. WE COULD BUY THE PHARIS MONASTERY WITH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE'RE GONNA GET.
AND SAVE THE HEAD OF THE ARCH-DEMON!
GOT IT?!
IF WE GET SEPARATED, WE'LL MEET IN THE DUKE'S CHAMBER!

IF YOU SLAY THE DEMON LORD--
JAB!
--THE MONASTERY WILL BESTOW HONORS ON YOU THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY.
THE MONASTERY CAN KEEP ITS DAMN HONOR!
GRR...
Snap!
Snap!
CRACK!
LEAP
OH, BELD--
--THE GOOD YOU COULD DO AS A WARRIOR PRIEST.
CHOMP!

SHE THINKS I SHOULD BE A SERVANT OF PHARIS
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
EH?
HURRY!
I'M CLOSING THE DOOR!
THUD
OH BLESSED DOOR, IN THE NAME OF MANA, KEEP SEALED THINE PASSAGE--
--AND OPEN ONLY TO THE WORD, KAHMA.
CLANK

krack
krack
krack

GLARE
NOW I UNDERSTAND.
YOU WERE THE ONE THAT KILLED THE GUARD AT THE VALISIAN TREASURY AND STOLE THE THREE SACRED WEAPONS--
krack
krack
krack
--AND YOU TOOK MY FORM TO DO THOSE EVIL ACTS.
BELD--
--YOU CAN HAVE THE ARCH-DEMON.
THIS DOPPELGANGER--

--IS MINE!
SCHINK
AS YOU WISH.
THIS IS THE WAY--
--TO THE HIDDEN STAIRCASE THAT LEADS TO THE DUKE'S CHAMBER.
GRRR!
I AM FAHN, LEADER OF THE VALISIAN HOLY ORDER OF KNIGHTS!
ENGARDE!

FAHN!!
LEAP
tak!
CLANG

HERE GOES!
Rrrrah!
T-ok

Th-
SHOVE
CLANK
THUMP!
JAB!

HYAAAAH!!
UGH!
T-KA-K
LEAP!
CHOMP!

shiver
drip!
drip!
CLANK!
WHOA!!
SPLORCH!!

huff.
huff.
huff.
huff.
huff.
huff.
Oh.
twiffed.

THUD
CRACK
RUMBL

LOOKS LIKE THERE AREN'T ANY EVIL GUARDS HERE
BOOM!
THEY MUST BE CONVINCED THAT--
--THE DUKE'S CHAMBER'S GOING TO BE OUR GRAVEYARD
BY THE WAY, WORT--
--HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THIS CASTLE?
WE MUST HURRY!
THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.

WHAT?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU--
--WARRIOR PRIESTESS

CPM MANGA
RECORD OF
LODOSS WAR
THE LADY OF PHARIS
DIRECT SALES
Story by Ryo Mizuno · Art by Akihiro Yamada

WHO ARE YOU?
I HAVE NO NAME.
JUST THINK OF ME AS SOMEONE WHO'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LODOSS.
AND WE HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON.
WE WON'T TOLERATE THE EVIL INVASION. ISN'T THAT RIGHT PLAUS?
GO TO HELL.
BAM!

WOOSH
CLANK!!

I'VE NEVER BEFORE SEEN SUCH A CREATURE.
AMAZING.
WHAT A THRILL!
WHAT A DARK, EVIL SOUL.
THE DEMON LORD IS EVEN MORE MAGNIFICENT THAN THIS CREATURE BEFORE US NOW.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM--
--HE'S A MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC.
DON'T FORGET, BELD--
--OUR PURPOSE IS TO RETRIEVE THE SACRED WEAPONS
I KNOW.

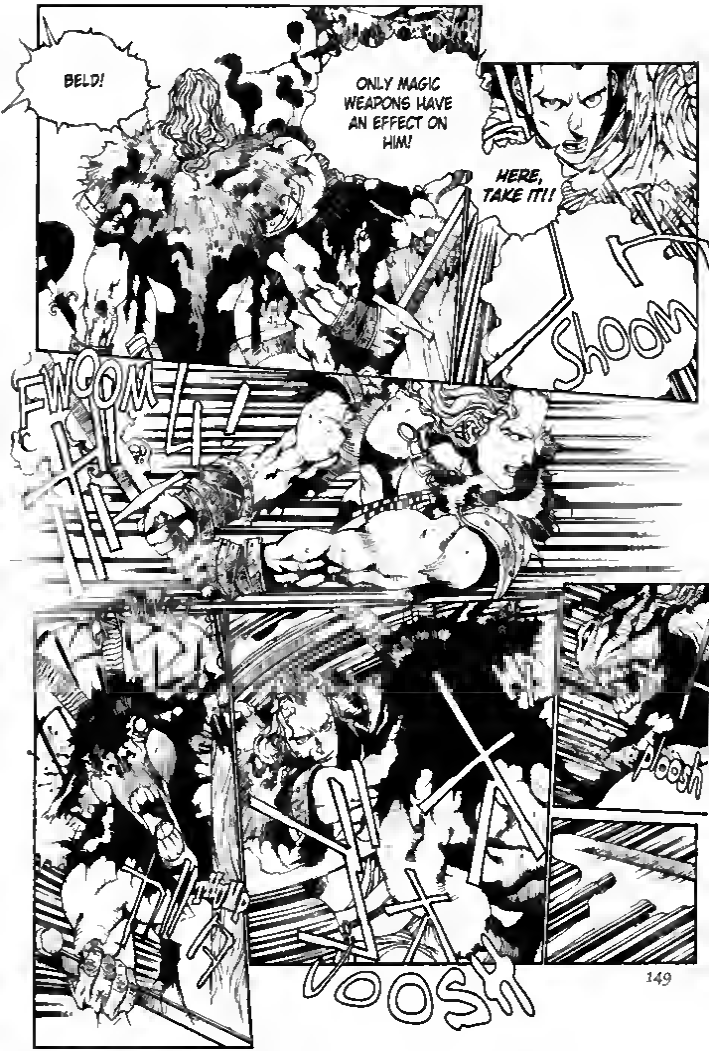
HE'S GOING TO USE HIS MAGIC
I'LL BACK YOU UP, BELD.
Shink
THAT'S--
--A FIRE CHANT!
IN THE NAME OF THE SUPREME GOD, PHARIS--
--APPEAR BEFORE US, WALL OF FIRE--

AWOOOM
---THAT THE FIRES OF HELL SHALL NOT BRING HARM TO OUR FLESH!!
OH MANA, SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC---
---BE THOU AN INVISIBLE SHIELD---
---AGAINST SWORD AND MIGHT!
GRAB
SLICE!
AHOOOM

USELESS MAGIC...
Hyaah!!
BAM
WHAM!
Bank

TOK
ARGHHH
HE'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T HE?
HIS COMMAND OF FIRE DEFIES THE POWER OF SACRED SORCERY.
I'M IMPRESSED, TOO.
YOU KNOW AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT BLACK MAGIC.
GR ROWRR!
GET BACK! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
Whoosh
GREAT MANA, TRANSFORM THYSELF TO RAVENOUS FLAME.
LEG OF SALAMANDER, BREATH OF IFRIT, WRATH OF ANCIENT GIANT DEFEAT...

VANA.
FLAME.
VEX.
IGROLS!
KABOOM
OH MANA SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC, SOURCE OF ALL MIRACLES--
--TURN TO FLAME AND INHABIT MY SWORD.
CRASH
BASH


BELD!
ONLY MAGIC WEAPONS HAVE AN EFFECT ON HIM!
HERE, TAKE IT!!
Shoom
FWOOM!!
Ploosh
VOOSH

Shhhuup
CLANK
I GUESS ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH!
UN GH!!
Hyaahh!
CLANK
CLANK
GLARE!!

tink
AAAUGHH!
CLANK

clank
clank
scrape
HMM!!
JAB
THAT SPELL?!
IS THAT IT?
IS IT OVER?
clank
GOD, THAT WAS HELL.
HMM.
YOU HELD UP WELL--
--AGAINST THE SPELL OF PETRIFICATION.

WOOSH
Shhink
BELD--
--USE THIS!
FAHN?!
GraB

SLASH
THUD
THAT WAS--
--AMAZING, DELD!

I SEE THAT--
--YOU'RE UNHURT.
SO I GUESS YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION.
THANK YOU.
NOW I CAN RESTORE MY REPUTATION.
I CAN SEE WHY EVIL FEARS IT.
THIS IS SOME SACRED SWORD!
JAB

BELD!
YOU ROTTEN BEAST...
SLASH!

GROOWRR!
LEAP!
HYAAAAH!

CRASH!

LOOK
WAIT!
BELD!
THUMP!
twitch
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
twitch.
twitch.
DWELLERS OF THE COSMOS...
CHILDREN OF THE STARS--

TWITCH
TWITCH
--FALL TO THIS LAND, AT MANA'S REQUEST--
SHHHOO
SHHHOO
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
VOOOOSHH
--AS STONES TO HALT EVIL'S QUEST.
RATTLE
RATTLE
THUMP
THUMP
TWITCH

ploosh
pting
ptting
ptting
ptting
ptting

AREN'T YOU EXHAUSTED?
I'LL LIVE.
CAN YOU STAND UP, BELD?
D...DON'T FORGET--
--THE HEAD OF THE ARCH-DEMON.
FAHN?!
I... I'M FINE.
I'M FINE.
TMP!

HE'S POISONED ...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN BITTEN...
WHADYA THINK?
IT'S SPOOKY.
I AIN'T EVEN SEEN A KITTEN
LET'S GET--
--OUTTA HERE.
EVERYONE MUSTA GOT KILLED BY THEM WEIRD FIREBALLS.
YAR
THAT'S THEM EVIL GODS' HIDE-OUT! THERE COULD BE SOME SURVIVORS IN THERE
YOU MORON!
EVERYONE IN OUR VILLAGE WAS KILLED!

HUH?!
WAIT!
I'M A WARRIOR PRIESTESS OF PHARIS.
YOU CAN TRUST US.
PH... PHARIS!
LO...LO... LOOK AT THAT!
IT'S--
--IT'S THE HEAD OF AN EVIL GOD!
WE NEED YOUR HELP.
PLEASE ESCORT US TO THE NEAREST VILLAGE.
OUR FRIEND--
--WAS WOUNDED.

CPM MANGA
RECORD OF
LODOSS WAR
THE LADY OF PHARIS
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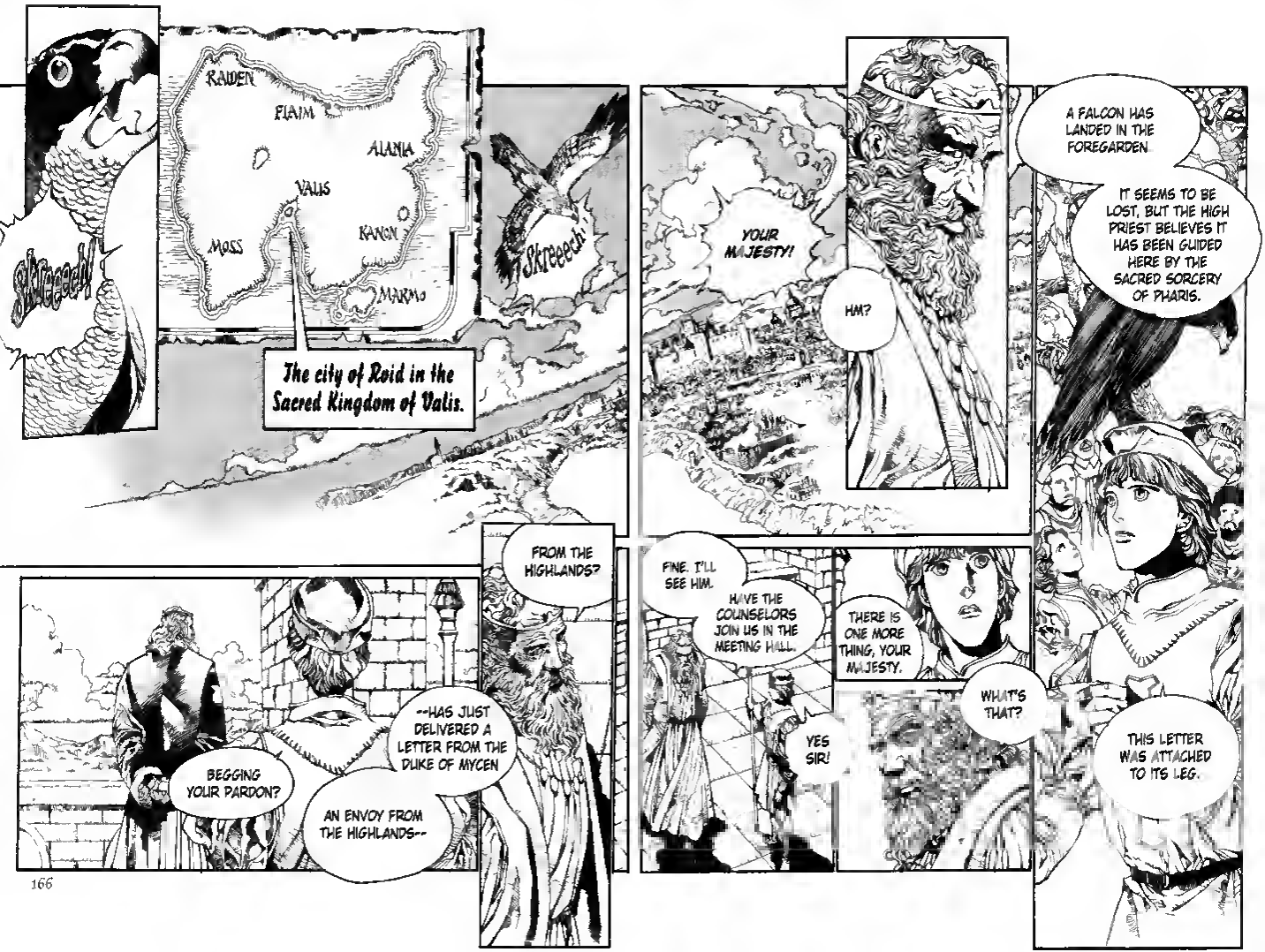
DIRECT SALES


RAIDEN
FLAIM
ALANIA
VALIS
MOSS
KANON
MARMO
Skreeeeh!
Skreeeeh!
The city of Roid in the Sacred Kingdom of Valis.
YOUR MAJESTY!
HM?
A FALCON HAS LANDED IN THE FOREGARDEN.
IT SEEMS TO BE LOST, BUT THE HIGH PRIEST BELIEVES IT HAS BEEN GUIDED HERE BY THE SACRED SORCERY OF PHARIS.
FINE. I'LL SEE HIM.
HAVE THE COUNSELORS JOIN US IN THE MEETING HALL.
YES SIR!
THERE IS ONE MORE THING, YOUR MAJESTY.
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS LETTER WAS ATTACHED TO ITS LEG.
FROM THE HIGHLANDS?
BEGGING YOUR PARDON?
--HAS JUST DELIVERED A LETTER FROM THE DUKE OF MYCEN
AN ENVOY FROM THE HIGHLANDS--

HMM.
HYAH!
HYAH!
RIKITA
RIKITA
RIKITA
RIKITA
RIKITA
"Your Majesty, King of Valia--
--your orders have been successfully executed."
"We will be departing once the two wounded soldiers are fit for travel."
SO YOU RETRIEVED THE SACRED WEAPONS--
--FAHN.
YOU MAY NOW RETURN FROM WHENCE YOU CAME.

DID YOU SAY THAT REFUGEES FROM MOSS HAVE ARRIVED AT THE MONASTERY?
YES SIR.
MOST OF THEM SEEM TO HAVE ESCAPED INTERNAL CONFLICTS THERE
HMM.
I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT THEM.
THE CONFLICT IS OVER RIGHTS TO THE THRONE
A SMALL KINGDOM WITHOUT DRAGONS DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE WITHOUT THE HELP OF EVIL

WHAT'S EVIL'S POSITION AT THE MOMENT?
THEY'RE HOLED UP IN THE MOUNTAINS IN MOSS. THEY HAVEN'T BUDGED.
THEY'RE BOUND TO WREAK HAVOC SOONER OR LATER.
AND DON'T FORGET HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO CONTAIN THEM.

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
RAFFARTY?!
YES, SIR!
THE MARFA MONASTERY IS PROVIDING SHELTER FOR REFUGEES--
--PHARIS' FOLLOWERS ARE DEMANDING THAT OUR MONASTERY DO SOMETHING TOO.
LEAP!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE WARRIOR PRIESTS?
SHH!
THE LEADER OF THE WARRIOR PRIESTS--
--WHAT WAS HER NAME?

I DON'T LIKE THIS.
THEY'RE--
--THEY'RE LIKE AN ARMY.
SHE WANTS PHARIS TO START A WAR?
YOU MUSN'T RELY ON WEAPONS ALONE.
YOU NEED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR BALANCE
NEXT!
OKAY!
FLAWS.

WHY DON'T WE SEND FLAUS--
--ON A TOUR OF THE KINGDOMS? SHE WON'T BE TOO FAR BEHIND MARFA AND MYREE.
I'M SURE THE PEOPLE--
--WILL CONSENT.
I THINK THAT'S AN EXCELLENT IDEA--
--YOUR MAJESTY.
LET'S GIVE HER--

--AS LAVISH A SEND-OFF AS POSSIBLE.

Wooosh
rustle
drip!
drip!

PRETTY GIRL--
GRASP
--ARE YOU A PRIESTESS?
YOU'RE A PHARIS PRIESTESS, AREN'T YOU?
I'VE SEEN THOSE ROBES BEFORE.
LOOK AT MY CLOTHES.
LOOK HOW THREADBARE THEY ARE
IT'S SOOO HOT.
I FEEL LIKE I'M ON FIRE.
EVIL SPIRITS ATTACKED OUR VILLAGE THEY KILLED OUR MAYOR AND SERGE NEXT DOOR.
THEN THEY INVADED MY HOME AND BREATHED FIRE ALL OVER.

IT WAS SOOO HOT.
I'M SORRY.
tink
I'M SO SORRY.

AAAIEEE!
grasp
crack!
Snap!

WERE YOU DREAMING?
UH... Y...
YES.
HOW DO YOU FEEL, BELD?
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
THAT STINKIN' EVIL GOD STABBED ME IN THE STOMACH.
IT HURTS SO BAD I COULD CRY.
giggle
I'M GOING DOWNSTAIRS TO GET SOME HOT WATER.
HE'S FINE. WORT DISPELLED THE POISON WITH MAGIC--
THAT'S IT. KEEP SMILIN'.
I DON'T WANT ANY GLOOMY WOMEN 'ROUND HERE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO FAHN?
--AND A VILLAGER GAVE HIM A POWERFUL ELIXIR.

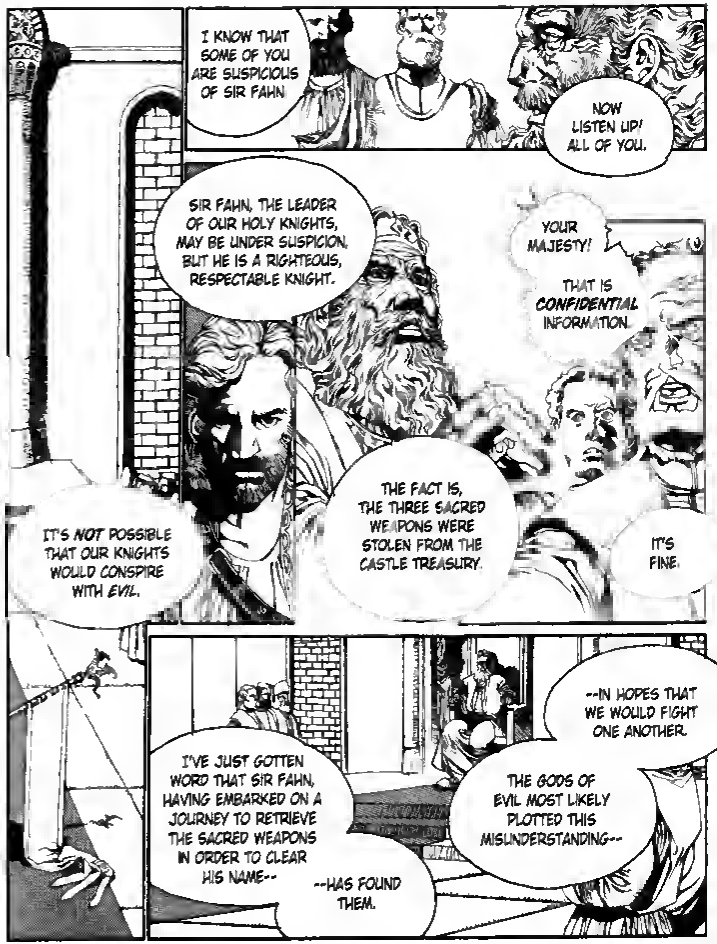
HMM.
I'M GONNA TAKE A NAP.
YOU CAN GO NOW.
ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST CALL.
YEAH.
GOOD!
IT'S STILL HERE.
trap
trap
HEY THERE, PRIESTESS.

HOW'S THAT BIG GUY?
HE'S FINE. HE SHOULD BE UP AND ABOUT TOMORROW.
FINE, THANK YOU.
BY THE WAY, HOW'S FAHN?
IF YOU FOLKS HADN'T ESCORTED US HERE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD HAVE DONE.
THAT WAS REALLY AMAZIN'.
YOU GUYS COMIN' OUTTA THE CASTLE WITH THE HEAD A THAT EVIL SPIRIT HANGIN' THERE.
OH! THERE YOU ARE!
HERE COMES THE MAYOR'S WIDOW.
GOOD MORNIN', MA'AM.
NO ONE'S EVEN GOT CLOSE TA THAT CASTLE SINCE THEM EVIL SPIRITS BEEN IN THERE.
TONIGHT'S FESTIVAL SHOULD BE SPLENDID.
FESTIVAL?

WE'RE DELIVERING THIS YEAR'S HARVEST TO THE *FOREST OF MIRRORS.*
--BUT I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE YOU ANY FURTHER.
THANK YOU--
COME WITH ME, FLAUS
I'VE MADE A LOVELY POT OF TEA FOR YOU
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.
TAKE A NICE, LONG BATH, SLIP ON SOME FRESH CLOTHES--
THEN WE'LL HAVE DINNER AND A NICE CHAT.
THEY'LL LOOK LOVELY ON YOU.
OR--
I'LL TRY. THANK YOU.
--IS THERE SOME RULE THAT SAYS A PHARIS PRIESTESS CAN'T TAKE IT EASY?

TUSK!
Klack
HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU LOOK!
I KNEW YOU WOULD.
FOREST OF MIRRORS.
HMMM.
THANK YOU.
I--
--DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED SO--
--AND YOU'RE JUST A YOUNG GIRL.

ARE YOU THE ENVOY FROM THE HIGHLANDS?
I AM THE KING OF VALIS.
RAISE YOUR HEAD.
YOUR MAJESTY!
I'VE READ THE LETTER FROM THE DUKE OF MYCEN--
--BUT--
--THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE INVASION OF YOUR BORDER BY VALISIAN HOLY KNIGHTS.


I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU ARE SUSPICIOUS OF SIR FAHN.
NOW LISTEN UP! ALL OF YOU.
SIR FAHN, THE LEADER OF OUR HOLY KNIGHTS, MAY BE UNDER SUSPICION, BUT HE IS A RIGHTEOUS, RESPECTABLE KNIGHT.
YOUR MAJESTY! THAT IS *CONFIDENTIAL* INFORMATION.
IT'S *NOT* POSSIBLE THAT OUR KNIGHTS WOULD CONSPIRE WITH *EVIL*.
THE FACT IS, THE THREE SACRED WEAPONS WERE STOLEN FROM THE CASTLE TREASURY.
IT'S FINE.
I'VE JUST GOTTEN WORD THAT SIR FAHN, HAVING EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY TO RETRIEVE THE SACRED WEAPONS IN ORDER TO CLEAR HIS NAME--
--HAS FOUND THEM.
THE GODS OF EVIL MOST LIKELY PLOTTED THIS MISUNDERSTANDING--
--IN HOPES THAT WE WOULD FIGHT ONE ANOTHER.

IF YOU WERE A DECORATED KNIGHT--
--YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND MY SHAME IN THIS.
RETURN TO MYCEN AND RELAY TO THE DUKE--
YES, SIR.
--THAT I, MYSELF, INTEND TO PAY HIM A VISIT TO APOLOGIZE.
YOUR MAJESTY!
ENOUGH.
I HAVE DECIDED
I SHALL ASK THE PHARIS MONASTERY AND THE PALACE PRIEST TO TEND TO MATTERS IN MY ABSENCE.
REMEMBER NEVER TO ACT IN HASTE.
SIR KNIGHT--

--THIS EVIL MENACE IS CONTAINED WITHIN MOSS AT THE MOMENT--
--BUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IT WILL SURELY THREATEN ALL OF LODOSS.
THIS IS NO TIME--
--FOR FIGHTING AMONGST HUMANS OR KINGDOMS
IS THIS NOT SO?
IN--
--INDEED IT IS!
woosh

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huff
huff.
huff
huff.
huff
huff.
huff
GRAS

slash
splashh!
FLAP

WHAT A LIVELY FESTIVAL.
IT'S REALLY AMAZING--
--THINKING ABOUT HEADING FOR VALIS TOMORROW.
I COULDN'T SLEEP--
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

--THAT HE CAN CARRY ON LIKE THAT--
--IN HIS CONDITION.
MAY I LAUGH?
?
ACTUALLY...
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE JOKING OR NOT.
I WASN'T, WORT. I JUST...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK BELD HOW HE DOES IT?
HE CAN TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT COARSE HUMOR.
FAHN!
GOTCHA!
GET OVER HERE YOU, YOU KILLJOY--
--AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO ENJOY LIFE!
WHOA... EASY...
AND I'M NOT LETTING YOU OFF THE HOOK!!

I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A PRINCESS.
Creak
FLAUS...
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
OF COURSE.
--I WAS AFRAID I WAS LOSING MY FEMININITY.
I'M GLAD.
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING EVIL DAY IN AND DAY OUT .. I'M ALWAYS COVERED IN BLOOD--
HE'LL BE ENCHANTED BY YOUR BEAUTY.
YOU SHOULD GO SEE BELD.

THANK YOU--
--BUT I CAN'T.
BELD AND FAHN ARE HEROES.
JUST LOOK AT THEM.
THEY'RE GOING TO BE INDISPENSABLE TO LODOSS SOMEDAY.
THEY LOOK LIKE YOUNG KINGS...
THEY'RE THE LIFE OF THE PARTY.
FLAUS
--DON'T YOU THINK IT'S SILLY TO LIVE IN FEAR OF THE FUTURE?
WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT?
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T PREACH TO A PHARIS PRIESTESS, BUT--
YOU'RE RIGHT.

YO!
WHISKEY!
ISN'T THERE ANYMORE WHISKEY?!
BELD...

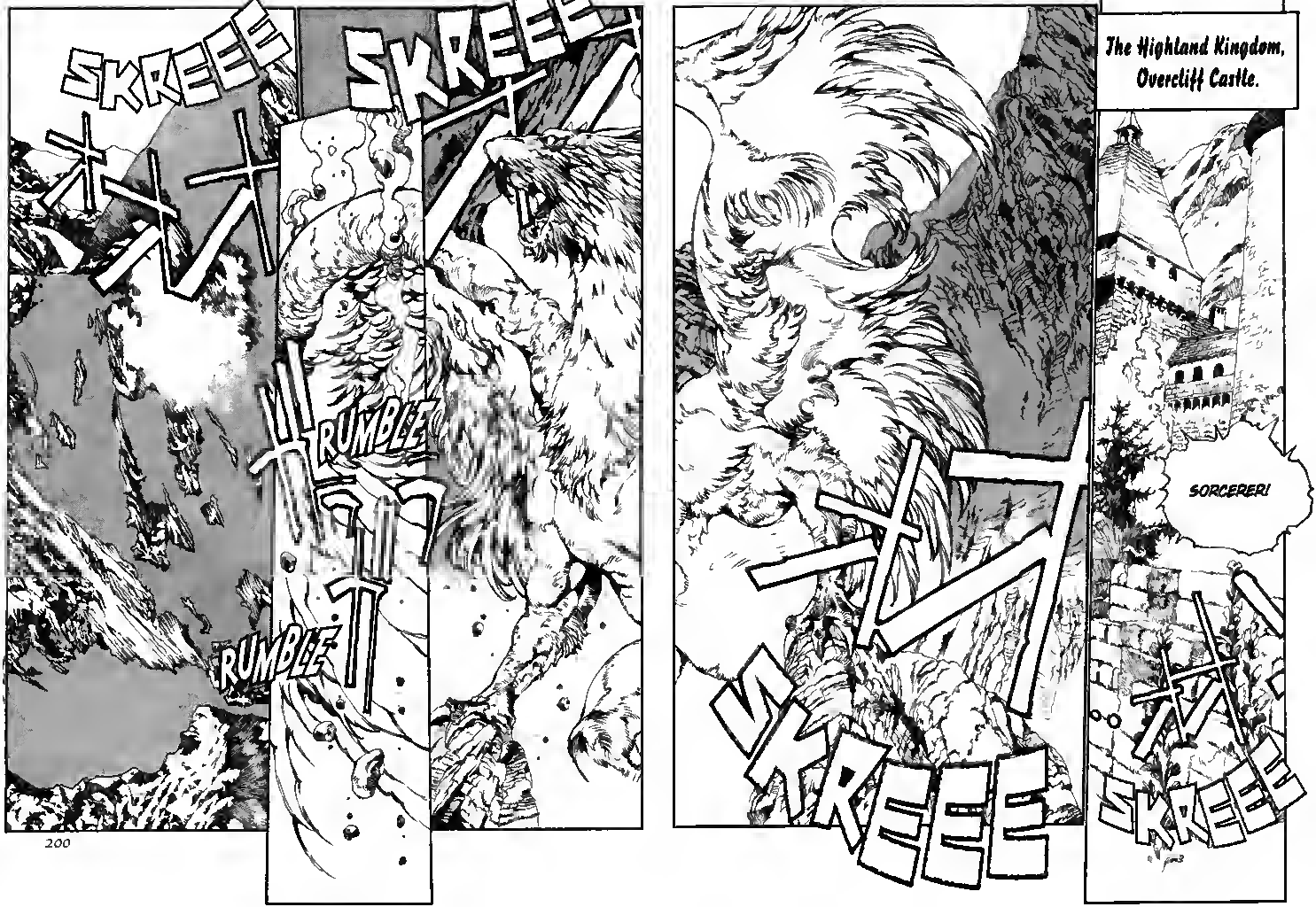
ATTENTION EVERYONE!
YOU PIGS!
FLAUS?
OUR VILLAGE'S MOST TALENTED MUSICIAN--
--MARIELLE, IS ABOUT TO PERFORM!

I have passed this way once and shall never pass again into the depths of the Forest of Mirrors.
Golden trees sleep soundly in the daylight Oh, grant us our dreams
Blessed dreams born of the radiance of the sun and the magic of the moon.

Grant us, oh grant us these dreams.
These dreams have been spun by days and by nights.
RUSTLE

WOOSH
NEE!
WHOOA!
WHAT'S THAT?!
COULD IT BE--
--SYLPH, THE SPIRIT OF THE WIND?
WOOSH
OH!
IT'S AN ELF--
--FROM THE FOREST OF MIRRORS!!

VARK...
VARKEELEY?
PLEASE...
HELP ME--
THE GOLDEN TREES...
--THE FOREST..


SKREEE
SKREEE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SKREEE
The Highland Kingdom, Overcliff Castle.
SORCERER!
SKREEE

WHERE'S THE IMPERIAL SORCERER?!
TAK
TAK
TAK
--YOUR HIGHNESS.
I AM HERE--
THAT DRAGON SOUNDS AGITATED!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
HIS AGITATION MAKES ME UNEASY.
I'M SORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS--
--BUT I'M NOT QUITE SURE.
HOWEVER, AN AGITATED DRAGON MAY VERY WELL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HUMAN BEINGS.
I UNDER-STAND.

IF YOU LEND ME SOME SOLDIERS--
--I'LL SURVEY THE SITUATION WITH MY OWN EYES.
SKREEE
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET A BOW AND ARROWS OR A SWORD.
HOPEFULLY ALL WILL PROVE SAFE AND SOUND.

BU... BUT--
--YOU ELVES FROM THE FOREST OF MIRRORS HAVE SOLDIERS AND SPIRITS, DON'T YA?
EVIL TROOPS STORMED INTO THE FOREST FROM SURROUNDING CAVES
IT WAS LIKE A BLACK WHIRLWIND.
IT WAS LIKE A NIGHT SKY WITHOUT STARS WAS FALLING DOWN ON US--
--IT WAS AN EVIL GOD WITH BLACK WINGS AND A GIRL WITH BLACK HAIR.
THE SOLDIERS FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY, BUT--

--EVEN WE ELVES, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO LIVE VERY, VERY LONG LIVES--
--WERE KILLED IN SECONDS.
VERY FEW SURVIVED.
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY ESCAPED, NOR TO WHERE.
YOU WERE CARELESS
THEY ARE SURE TO BE TRACKING YOU.
THE GOLDEN TREES OF THE FOREST OF MIRRORS HAVE GROWN ABUNDANTLY SINCE ANCIENT TIMES
THEY ARE SAID TO BE AN INCARNATION OF THE GODDESS OF CREATION
EVIL WILL MOST CERTAINLY NOT SPARE THOSE TREES.

LOOK AT THIS!
THE GOLDEN TREES HAVE ALREADY BEEN BLIGHTED BY THE NOXIOUS STENCH OF EVIL.
THE TREES WILL NO LONGER FLOWER, NOR BEAR FRUIT.
SO, THIS IS HOW FAR EVIL HAS ADVANCED.

fizzle
DAMN.

AH HAH--
--SO, IT'S YOU!

WHAT'RE YOU SMILING AT?
ARE YOU HAPPY TO BE HERE?
OR ARE YOU MOCKING ME?
WORT?
--YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS.
I PROMISE--
DWELLERS OF THE COSMOS... CHILDREN OF THE STARS--
HEY... WORT!
--FALL TO THIS LAND, AT MANA'S REQUEST--
fWOOM
fWOOM
fWOOM

WACK!
WORT!
--AS STONES TO HALT THIS...
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA
Skreee!

FWOOOP

AAAHA HA HA HA!!
アハハハ
HUGH!
WERE YOU TRYING TO ENTANGLE US IN THIS CONFLICT?

...SORRY.
WE NEED TO BORROW A COUPLE OF HORSES!
LET'S GO, FAHN!
W..WAIT, BELD!
AFTER WHAT YOU JUST DID, YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT COMING WITH US...
OHHH, DON'T WORRY.
WE'RE JUST GONNA GO TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOREST.
...HMM.

To Howie Joseph, and all my fans. Thank you so much for all [illegible]